

**United States**  
**Department of the Interior**  
**Bureau of Land Management**

*Miles City Field Office*

**Six-X Grazing Transfer**

Determination of NEPA Adequacy  
DOI-BLM-MT-C020-2013-0150-DNA

*For Further Information Please Contact:*

Bureau of Land Management  
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Miles City, Montana 59301  
406-233-2800

BLM



DATE POSTED: APRIL 25, 2013

DATE DUE: MAY 9, 2013

**Worksheet**  
**Documentation of NEPA Adequacy (DNA)**

U.S. Department of the Interior  
Bureau of Land Management (BLM)

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**BLM Office:** Miles City

**NEPA Number:** DOI-BLM-MT-C020-2013-0150-DNA

**Case File/Project No:** GR 2502311

**Proposed Action Title/Type:** Issuance of Grazing Permit

**Location/Legal Description**

Garfield County, Townships 18 and 19 North, Range 31 East (See map at end of the document)

**A: Description of the Proposed Action:** The proposed action is to ensure the allotment continues to meet the Land Health Standards and issue a transfer of grazing preference from Weder Agricultural Limited to the current applicant Zane and Dixon Murnion. The applicant provided a lease agreement showing control of the Six-X Allotment No. 00350 for 3 years. The permit would be issued for 3 years (March 1, 2013 through February 29, 2016). No changes would be made to the existing grazing schedule, grazing preference, kind of livestock, percent public land, or type of use. The permit would be issued as follows:

Gr. 2502311

Allotment Name and Number	Pasture	Livestock		Grazing Period		% PL	Type Use	AUMs
		Number	Kind	Begin	End			
Six-X No.00350		26	Cattle	03/01	02/28	100	Custodial	305
	Hay Coulee	40	Cattle	03/01	02/24	22	Active	104
	S. Six-X	220	Cattle	03/01	02/20	63	Custodial	1653

Total Active AUMs: 2,062

**Terms and Conditions:**

Line 1: Pastures are Heifer, Head Quarters and H+Pastures. Livestock numbers are not restricted.

Line 2: hay Coulee is authorized for up to 200 cattle for 73 days and annual application is required each year prior to grazing.

Line 3: South S-X (includes Matt Pasture) is authorized for up to 400 cattle for 170 days and annual application is required each year prior to grazing.

Supplemental feed (includes salting) will not be placed within one quarter of a mile of stock watering facilities, riparian zones, hardwood draws or wetlands. Supplemental feed defined as feed that provides for improved livestock nutrition or rangeland management, but does not replace forage available from public land.

The term of the permit will run from March 1, 2013 to February 29, 2016, which coincides with the dates on the base property lease. Provided that current monitoring information indicates that range conditions are in conformance with 43 CFR 4180, the permit may be renewed upon renewal of the base property lease through February 28, 2023.

**Applicant:** Zane and Dixon Murnion

**County:** Garfield

**DNA Originator:** Josh Halpin

## **B. Land Use Plan (LUP) Conformance**

LUP Name\* Big Dry RMP, ROD Date Approved 1996

Other document\*\* Standards for Rangeland Health and Guidelines for Livestock Grazing for Montana, North Dakota and South Dakota ROD Date Approved 1997

Other document\*\* [DOI-BLM-MT-C020-2006-287](#) Date  
Approved 9/29/2006

*\*List applicable LUPs (for example, resource management plans; activity, project, management, or program plans; or applicable amendments thereto)*

☐ The proposed action is in conformance with the applicable LUPs because it is specifically provided for in the following LUP decisions:

☒ The proposed action is in conformance with the LUP, even though it is not specifically provided for, because it is clearly consistent with the following LUP decisions (objectives, terms, and conditions)

This proposed action is in conformance with the Big Dry RMP ROD approved in 1996, as amended by the Standards for Rangeland Health and Guidelines for Livestock Grazing for Montana, North Dakota, and South Dakota ROD approved in 1997. The Standards for Rangeland Health and Guidelines for Livestock Grazing for Montana, North Dakota, and South Dakota ROD states on page 12 "Terms and conditions are a tool to achieve resource conditions in the standard". The Big Dry RMP ROD (page 11) recognizes livestock grazing within the preferred alternative of the final EIS..

## **C. Identify applicable National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) document(s) and other related documents that cover the proposed action.**

List by name and date all applicable NEPA documents that cover the proposed action.

Big Dry RMP ROD signed 1996

List by name and date other documentation relevant to the proposed action (e.g., biological assessment, biological opinion, watershed assessment, allotment evaluation and monitoring report).

- S&G EA MT-020-99-73. The Six-X Allotment passed the Standards for Rangeland Health assessment in 2011. The allotment is still considered to be meeting the Standards for Rangeland Health.
- Cultural Report: MT-020-06-228

#### **D. NEPA Adequacy Criteria**

**1. Is the new proposed action a feature of, or essentially similar to, an alternative analyzed in the existing NEPA document(s)? Is the project within the same analysis area, or if the project location is different, are the geographic and resource conditions sufficiently similar to those analyzed in the existing NEPA document(s)? If there are differences, can you explain why they are not substantial?** Yes. The proposed action is similar to those analyzed in the above referenced documents. The EA's analyzed issuing the permit for the Six-X Allotment while analyzing grazing schedule, grazing preference, kind of livestock, percent public land, type of use, or the terms and conditions

**2. Is the range of alternatives analyzed in the existing NEPA document(s) appropriate with respect to the new proposed action, given current environmental concerns, interests, resource values?** Yes. The alternatives in the existing Environmental Assessment analyzed the effects of livestock grazing. These alternatives were determined to be appropriate for the current proposed action.

**3. Is the existing analysis valid in light of any new information or circumstances (such as rangeland health standard assessment, recent endangered species listings, updated lists of BLM-sensitive species)? Can you reasonably conclude that new information and new circumstance would not substantially change the analysis of the new proposed action?** Yes, no new information has been obtained since the original transfer EA was signed in 9/29/2006.

**4. Are the direct, indirect and cumulative effects that would result from implementation of the new proposed action similar (both quantitatively and qualitatively) to those analyzed in the existing NEPA document?** Yes. The direct and indirect impact of the current proposed action is unchanged from the existing Environmental Assessment. The current proposed action is an administrative name change and the number of livestock and season of use is remaining unchanged. The original EA analyzed the site-specific impacts livestock grazing would have on the allotment. Since the livestock grazing is not changing on the allotment, the original EA is sufficient for site-specific impacts.

**5. Are the public involvement and interagency review associated with existing NEPA document(s) adequate for the current proposed action?** Yes. The public involvement and interagency review associated with the existing Environmental Assessment is adequate for the current proposed action per agency requirements. The NEPA log is available on the Miles City Field Office web page for public access.

**E. Interdisciplinary Analysis:** Identify those team members conducting or participating in the preparation of this worksheet.

<u>Name</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Represented</u>	<u>Date</u>
<b>Kent Undlin</b>	<b>Wildlife Biologist</b>	<b>Wildlife</b>	<b>6/3/13 KU</b>
<b>Reyer Rens</b>	<b>Supv Range Mgt Spec</b>	<b>Review</b>	<b>RR 6/4/2013</b>

**F. Mitigation Measures:** List any applicable mitigation measures that were identified, analyzed, and approved in relevant LUPs and existing NEPA document(s). List the specific mitigation measures or identify an attachment that includes those specific mitigation measures. Document that these applicable mitigation measures must be incorporated and implemented.

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**6/10/2013**

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**Environmental Coordinator**

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**Date**

### **CONCLUSION**

☒ Based on the review documented above, I conclude that this proposal conforms to the applicable land use plan and that the NEPA documentation in *DOI-BLM-MT-C020-2006-287* fully covers the proposed action and constitutes BLM's compliance with the requirements of NEPA.

Note: If one or more of the criteria are not met, a conclusion of conformance and/or NEPA adequacy cannot be made and this box cannot be checked



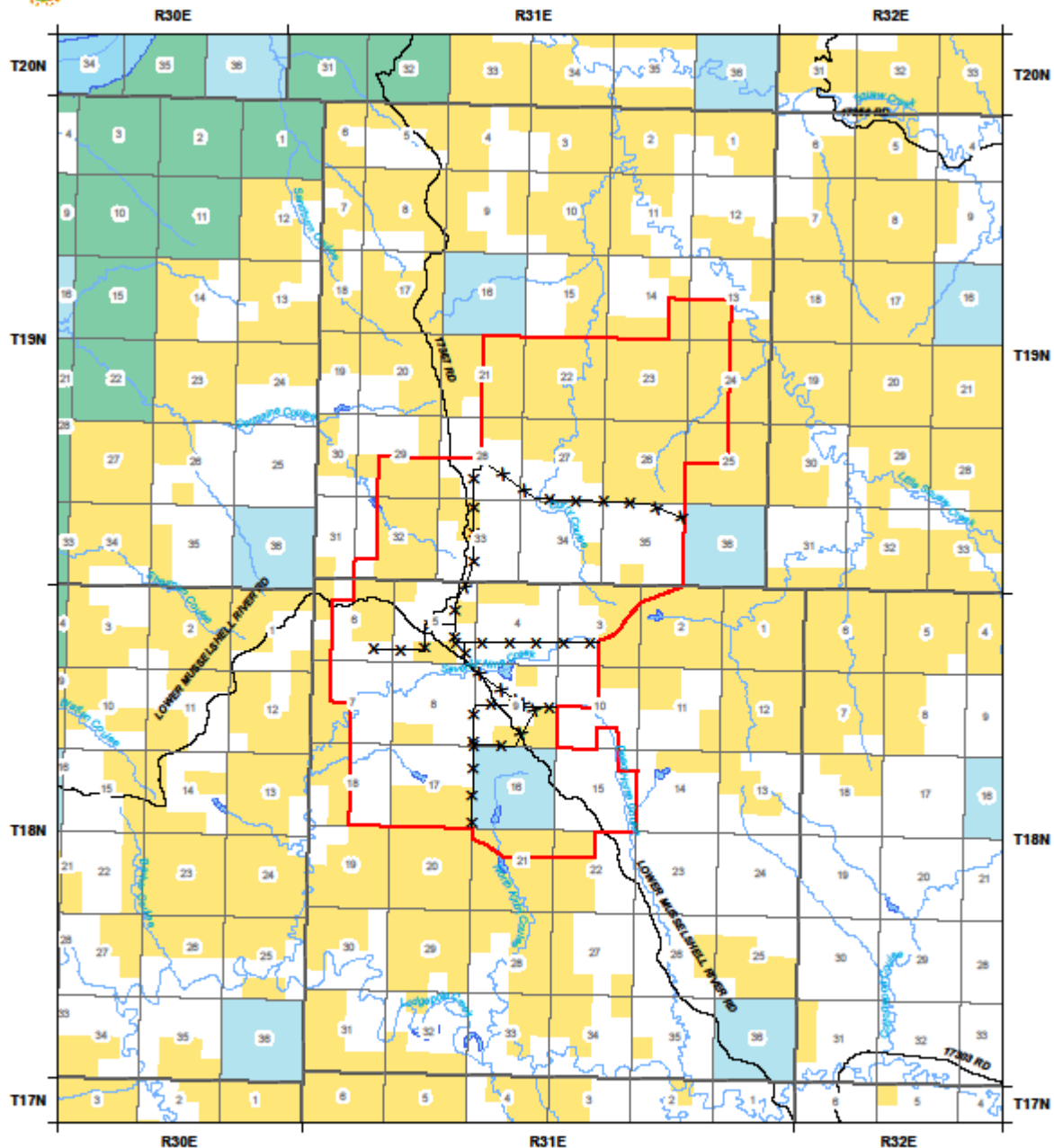
**6/11/2013**

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Todd D. Yeager  
Field Manager  
Miles City Field Office

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Date**



# 7-W Allotment No. 01104



- X 7-W Fences
- 7-W Allotment
- BLM - Public Domain
- Private
- Division of State Lands
- US Fish and Wildlife Service
- WATER

No warranty is made by the Bureau of Land Management for the use of the data for purposes not intended by the BLM.



2/22/2013

1:100,000

0 0.25 0.5 1 1.5 Miles

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT  
MILES CITY FIELD OFFICE

**CAUTION:**  
Land ownership data is derived from less accurate data than the 1:24000 scale base map. Therefore, land ownership may not be shown for parcels smaller than 40 acres, and land ownership lines may have plotting errors due to source data.

